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Beverly Couple Infiltrated Reds As Counterspies

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By WILLIAM DOHERTY

The disclosure that a Beverly husband and his wife infiltrated the Communist Party in New England as counterspies for the FBI was a highlight yesterday of a Federal Subversives Control Board hearing. The Justice Department presented charges that four Greater Boston residents register as communist under the McCarran Act.

Heard of CIA 'Execution'

The wife of the counterspy team, Mrs. Elsie Piper, 49, of 20 Kernwood Ave., Beverly, related a story she said she was told of a CIA agent having been executed by the Russians after leaking a story to the New York Times.

She said the late Elizabeth Gurley Flynn told a New England communist meeting the CIA agent infiltrated the 22nd Communist Party Congress in Moscow in 1961 and gave The Times information about it. The agent was discovered by the Russians and executed.

"People don't realize the ex-

tent of the split between Russia and China." Mrs. Piper quoted Mrs. Flynn as saying. The Beverly housewife had been a party member for nearly 12 years and her husband, Charles F. Piper, for nine.

The Justice Department is seeking the registration as Communists of: Otis A. Hood, 63, of 350 Druid Hill Ave., Holbrook, who ran several times for governor on the Communist ticket; Ann Burlak Timpson, 53, of 20 Brookledge St., Roxbury; Lewis M. Johnson, 46, of 66 Morse St., Sharon; and Edward Teixeira, 32, of 27 Wales St., Dorchester.



(Herald Staff Photo by George Hoyt)

UNDERCOVER AGENTS—Mrs. Elsie Piper, 49, and her husband, Charles, 52, face the camera after revealing in Federal courtroom yesterday they served as FBI undercover agents among Communists here.

Continued

Pickets marched outside the federal building as the hearing was conducted in an 11th floor courtroom by Hearings Officer Frederick G. Smithson.

RULING BODY

Piper identified Hood as chairman of the Communist Party's New England District Committee, ruling body of the party in all the New England states except Connecticut.

Piper said Mrs. Timpson was treasurer of the committee, Johnson was executive secretary, Teixeira, at one time, was a delegate to the committee, Mrs. Piper said.

Piper, who is a printer at The Danvers Herald, said he joined the party in January, 1956, and worked his way up to education director and later chairman of the North Shore branch. Mrs. Piper, who said her undercover activities were unknown to even her children, served for a time as North Shore delegate to the party's New England District Committee.

HIGH POINTS

High points of the pipers' testimony included:

- There were 100 Communist Party members in New England in 1962 only 64 of whom paid their dues.

- Many local Communist party meetings, including one as recent as Nov. 8, were held in a former religious school hall on Chestnut street in Chelsea.

- The Communist Party played a part in last year's Civil Rights demonstrations in Boston.

- Last year the Communist Party in New England was doing better without an organizer than other sections of the country that had organizers.

- The party requested members to join the NAACP.

- The American Communist Party told Moscow that it made a major error in allowing Castro to

be identified as a Communist rather than just the head of a revolutionary government.

CROSS EXAMINATION

Under cross examination by Atty. Gabriel Kantrovitz, counsel for the accused Reds, Mrs. Piper said that during the past 13 years she has been paid \$16,000 plus \$3,000 for expenses by the FBI for gathering information on the party. She said her husband was paid about \$12,000.

Mrs. Piper said she listed this on her income tax return as income from interior decorating work. She said her husband listed his FBI salary as income from "wood working" jobs.

Mrs. Piper told Kantrovitz she now receives \$125 a month from the FBI plus expenses.

The FBI pointed out they were not regular employees of the FBI. The FBI agent in charge, James L. Handley, said the Pipers gave their country a worthwhile service.

Mrs. Piper, who was on the witness stand most of the day, said she attended many party meetings with Hood, Johnson and Mrs. Timpson including the first convention of the party in New England in January 1957 at Otis Field Hall in Roxbury.

IMAGE VITAL

Gus Hall told a meeting in March, 1963 that it was important for the party to create a good image as Russia had done when it pulled its missiles out of Cuba, Mrs. Piper said.

Mrs. Piper said she used the name Grace Brown while working as an undercover agent. She said she paid party dues of 35 cents a month when she joined in 1953.

At the October party meeting, Mrs. Piper said the Justice Department edict requesting the four accused Communists to register was discussed. She also told Kantrovitz about a new FBI policy instituted in September, under which the bureau pays taxes on a counterspy's salary directly to the IRS.

CPYRGHT